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CHEATED HEARTS ✓

DEC -8 1921 ✓

Photoplay in five reels

Story by William F. Payson

Scenario by Wallace Clifton

Produced by Hobart Henley ✓

Author of the photoplay (under Sec. 62)
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"Cheated Hearts"

BARRY GORDON is the older of the two sons of Col. Gordon, of Virginia. Col. Gordon, literally dying on his feet from over-drink, warns Barry of the tempta-

tions he will have to resist, as all of the Gordons have had this same desire for drink. Col. Gordon dies and Barry and Tom, the younger brother, arrive at the Beekman home, in Massachusetts. Mr. Beekman, a very dear friend of Col. Gordon, is the executor of the Gordon estate. Muriel, his daughter, is loved by both Barry and Tom. Barry senses that Muriel loves Tom much more than she could ever love him. However, Kitty Van Ness, Muriel's closest friend, knows otherwise. Kitty is in love with Tom, but keeps it well concealed. A circumstance arises in which Tom and Muriel are in danger from the attack of an enraged bull. Barry

practically saves their lives. But Muriel, regaining consciousness after the rescue, thinks that it is Tom who has shown the greatest bravery. Barry lets her think so. The brother-love element of the story is here apparent. Barry has always given up to Tom, and in this case he does as he has always done. Tom proposes to Muriel, but is rejected. However, the scene is observed by Barry, who interprets it as it appears, that Muriel is accepting Tom. In a sudden and very bitter moment, at the loss of what he has most desired, Barry succumbs to the punch bowl. He is found by Muriel in a drunken condition. She upbraids him for not having kept his promise to her—that he would never drink again. In a wild moment Barry kisses her. The kiss inflames Muriel and in a bitter moment she tells Tom that she will marry him. Later, Barry, sober, has a touching scene with Tom and after Tom has retired, Barry writes a letter to Muriel, begging her forgiveness and stating that he is going away.

Three years later finds Barry in Paris, after extensive travels. He has continued to drink, until he is saturated, and drink has little outward effect on him. From a newspaper he learns that Tom, who has been sent to Morocco by Mr. Beekman, has fallen into the hands of desert marauders and is being held for ransom. He cables "Mrs. Thomas Gordon" at two places, the Beekman home and Tangiers. He thinks that Tom and Muriel have married. The newspaper article has stated that Tom has presumably been murdered, but Barry feels that this is a lie. In Tangiers he seeks the aid of the consul, who gives him what assistance he can, but which is little. After weeks of untiring search he again reaches Tangiers to find that Mr. Beekman, Muriel and Kitty Van Ness have arrived in answer to his cablegram.

A month passes, and in that month, Barry and Muriel

discover that they really love each other. However, Barry still believes that Tom is alive and he feels some qualms about marrying the girl that Tom, if he is still

alive, believes true to him. However, the scruples are finally laid aside and the wedding day set. On the day the marriage is about to be consummated Barry received word through the consul that Tom is still alive. Barry could easily marry Muriel and then go after Tom, but he does the only thing which his sense of honor will permit him to do—he goes for Tom first, to give Tom his chance. Barry seeks information from Ibrahim, the money lender and pays a huge sum for the privilege of only seeing Tom. On the way to the desert stronghold where Tom is confined, Barry bribes his two guards to allow him to swap places with Tom, as his passport calls for



HERBERT DAWLINSON
"CHEATED HEARTS"

safe passage for "bearer" and does not state names. They agree to Barry's proposition. Arrived at the stronghold, Barry's first act is to rescue a girl, Naomi, from the brutality of the chieftain in charge. This incurs the man's enmity. Meanwhile the guards bribed by Barry inform the chief of the plan and he is willing to let it go through, as the Barry will be left in his power. Tom escapes, after Barry promises he will follow as soon as he has paid the ransom. The chieftain comes to torture Barry and gloats over the helpless man as Barry suffers while suspended by his heels in the cave where Tom has previously suffered. The girl, Naomi, however, comes to his rescue. In the ensuing fight the chieftain is killed and Naomi dies in Barry's arms, even as the chieftain's men are upon him. Barry has a wild ride for his life, and succeeds in reaching Tangiers alive. But only, however, to see what he thinks is a love scene between Tom and Muriel. He sinks wearily in his chair; after all, Muriel has found that she did love Tom and— He calls for a waiter and orders a drink. Old Ibrahim, angered that Tom, whom he counted on as a rich hostage, has escaped, and not only that, but that Barry has tricked him, is angered beyond reason. He intercepts the waiter bearing the drink Barry ordered and puts poison into it. He places the drink before Barry and departs. Barry lifts the drink, but at the last moment has the strength to put it aside. There is no use in being weak forever. Muriel comes to the garden. Barry, weak from his long ride, is in a state of collapse. Muriel sees the drink—it will resuscitate him. She lifts it to his lips, but Barry opens his eyes and looks up into her face. Her words of explanation tell him that it is him and him only for whom she cares. In joy he brushes the poisoned drink aside and takes her into his arms.

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